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April 11, 2006

U.S. Patent Office
Attn: Deposit Account Inquiries
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application No. 10/619,751
Filed: July 14, 2003
For: Luke W. CLAUSON
Title: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR ALTERING THE TRANSMISSION
RATIO OF A DRIVE SYSTEM
Our Ref. No. 017-001

Dear Sir or Madam:

The authorization for payment of the Request for Continued Examination for the subject application was submitted to the Patent Office on March 17, 2006 (a copy of the documents filed and a copy of the stamped returned postcard is attached).

The Applicant has been noted as having small entity status; we did NOT change the Applicant's status from small to large.

Upon review of our Deposit Account, 50-1247, we found that on March 21, 2006, our Deposit Account was charged large entity fees for the payment of the RCE fee. As we did not change the Applicant's status, we are requesting a refund of \$395.00. A copy of the statement showing the incorrect charge is attached.

Please let us know if you require anything further to credit our Deposit Account.

Best regards,



Jens Hoekendijk

JEH:elc

Enc.: -COPY of RCE papers filed
-COPY of Deposit Account statement

Finance

PATENT MAINTENANCE
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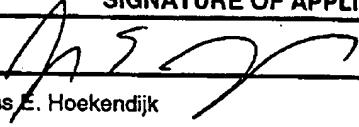
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	10/619,751
Filing Date	July 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Luke W. CLAUSON
Art Unit	3681
Examiner Name	Tisha D. Lewis
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	13
Attorney Docket Number	017-001

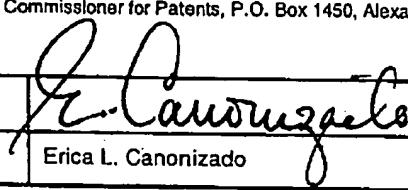
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	Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-1247.	

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Signature			
Printed name	Jens E. Hoekendijk		
Date	March 17, 2006	Reg. No.	37149

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Erica L. Canonizado	Date	March 17, 2006



Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal

Address to:
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/619,751
Filing Date	July 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Luke W. CLAUSON
Group Art Unit	3681
Examiner Name	Tisha D. Lewis
Attorney Docket Number	017-001

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)

a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1247

i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. Other Any deficiencies or credits

b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Jens E. Hoekendijk	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	37,149
Signature		Date	March 17, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Erica L. Canoizado	Date	March 17, 2006
Signature		Date	March 17, 2006

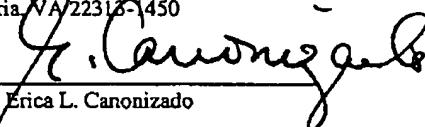


Appl. No. 10/619,751
Amendment dated March 17, 2006
Reply to Office Communication mailed January 25, 2006

Date: March 17, 2006

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signed: 

Erica L. Canonizado

Appl. No. : 10/619,751
Applicant : Luke W. CLAUSON
Filed : July 14, 2003
Title : METHODS AND DEVICES FOR ALTERING THE
TRANSMISSION RATIO OF A DRIVE SYSTEM
TC/A.U. : 3681
Examiner : Tisha D. Lewis
Docket No. : 017-001

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Examiner:

Prior to examination please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification: None.

Amendments to the Claims are shown at page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings: None

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 Canceled

17. (Currently Amended) A method of varying a transmission ratio between a first motor and an output shaft using a second motor, comprising the steps of:

providing a first motor, a second motor, an output shaft and a planetary gear set including a ring gear, a sun gear and a carrier which supports at least one planet gear;

coupling the first motor, the second motor, and the output shaft each to one of the ring gear, sun gear and carrier;

producing a rotary output at the output shaft, wherein the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft is varied by varying the speed of the second motor, wherein the speed of the output shaft increases when the speed of the second motor increases and the speed of the first motor is held constant, the producing step being carried out by varying the rotating speed of the second motor so that the first motor operates at a speed within a desired performance range, the producing step also being carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less than 2000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output, the producing step being carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less than 1000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output.

18. Canceled

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the producing step is carried out with the transmission ratio being controlled by the second motor based upon an output torque demand on the engine.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the first motor being a heat engine and the second motor is an electric motor.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the heat engine being an internal combustion engine.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the first motor being coupled to the sun gear, the second motor being coupled to the ring gear, and the output shaft being coupled to the carrier.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the first motor being coupled to the sun gear, the second motor being coupled to the carrier and the output shaft being coupled to the ring gear.

24. (Previously amended) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with a synchronizer for synchronizing the rotation of the first motor and the output shaft.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:

synchronizing the rotation of the first motor, second motor and output shaft using the synchronizer.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the producing step is carried out in a manner which operates the first motor within a desired performance range by varying the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft.

Claims 27-29 Canceled

30. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the producing step is carried out by combining a power of the first motor with a power of the second motor when the output shaft is initially not rotating.

31. (Previously amended) A method of varying a transmission ratio between a first motor and an output shaft using a second motor, comprising the steps of:

providing a first motor, a second motor, an output shaft and a planetary gear set including a ring gear, a sun gear and a carrier which supports at least one planet gear;

coupling the first motor, the second motor, and the output shaft each to one of the ring gear, sun gear and carrier;

producing a rotary output at the output shaft, wherein the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft is varied by varying the speed of the second motor, wherein the speed of the output shaft increases when the speed of the second motor increases and the speed of the first motor is held constant; and

stopping the second motor to provide a fixed speed ratio between the first motor and the output shaft during a second mode of operation;

the producing step being carried out to vary the transmission ratio during a first mode of operation.

32. (Previously amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

synchronizing rotation of the first motor and the output shaft, wherein a power of the first motor is combined serially with the power of the second motor to provide power to the output shaft.

33. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
generating electrical energy with the second motor, the second motor being an electrical motor;

storing the electrical energy in a power storage device.

Claims 34-52 Canceled

53. (Previously amended) A method of combining the power of a first motor and a second motor, comprising the steps of:

providing an output shaft, a first motor, a second motor, a synchronizer, and a planetary gear set having a ring gear, a sun gear and a carrier having at least one planet gear, the first motor, second motor and output shaft being coupled to at least one of the ring gear, sun gear and carrier, the synchronizer synchronizing the rotation of the first motor and the output shaft;

varying the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft by varying the speed of the second motor in a first mode of operation, wherein the speed of the output shaft

increases when the speed of the second motor is increased while the speed of the first motor is constant, the varying step being carried out by varying the rotating speed of the second motor so that the first motor operates at a speed within a desired performance range, the varying step being carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less than 1000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output; and

synchronizing the rotation of the first motor, second motor and output shaft using the synchronizer in a second mode of operation.

54. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein:
the varying step is carried out with the transmission ratio being controlled by the second motor based upon an output torque demand.

55. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first motor being a heat engine and the second motor is an electric motor.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55; wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the heat engine being an internal combustion engine.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 53, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first motor being coupled to the sun gear, the second motor being coupled to the ring gear, and the output shaft being coupled to the carrier.

58. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first motor being coupled to the sun gear, the second motor being coupled to the carrier and the output shaft being coupled to the ring gear.

Claims 59-64 Canceled

65. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein:

the varying step is carried out by combining a power of the first motor with a power of the second motor when the output shaft is initially not rotating.

66. (Previously Amended) A method of combining the power of a first motor and a second motor, comprising the steps of:

providing an output shaft, a first motor, a second motor, a synchronizer, and a planetary gear set having a ring gear, a sun gear and a carrier having at least one planet gear, the first motor, second motor and output shaft being coupled to at least one of the ring gear, sun gear and carrier, the synchronizer synchronizing the rotation of the first motor and the output shaft;

varying the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft by varying the speed of the second motor in a first mode of operation, wherein the speed of the output shaft increases when the speed of the second motor is increased while the speed of the first motor is constant;

synchronizing the rotation of the first motor, second motor and output shaft using the synchronizer in a second mode of operation; and

stopping the second motor to provide a fixed speed ratio between the first motor and the output shaft.

Claims 67-95 Canceled

96. (Previously Amended) A method of varying a transmission ratio between a first motor and an output shaft using a second motor, comprising the steps of:

providing a first motor, a second motor, an output shaft and a planetary gear set including a ring gear, a sun gear and a carrier which supports at least one planet gear;

coupling the first motor, the second motor, and the output shaft each to one of the ring gear, sun gear and carrier;

producing rotary output at the output shaft in a first mode of operation and in a second mode of operation, the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft being varied by varying the speed of the second motor in the first mode of operation, the second motor being stopped to provide a fixed speed ratio between the first motor and the output shaft when in the second mode of operation.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:

the producing step is carried out with the speed of the output shaft increasing when the speed of the second motor increases and the speed of the first motor is held constant

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:

the producing step is carried out with the transmission ratio being controlled by the second motor based upon an output torque demand on the engine when in the first mode of operation.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the first motor being a heat engine and the second motor is an electric motor.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the first motor being coupled to the sun gear, the second motor being coupled to the carrier and the output shaft being coupled to the ring gear.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising:

the providing step is carried out with a synchronizer for synchronizing the rotation of the first motor and the output shaft.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of:

synchronizing the rotation of the first motor, second motor and output shaft using the synchronizer.

103. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:

the producing step is carried out in a manner which operates the first motor within a desired performance range by varying the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft in the first mode of operation.

104. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:

the producing step is carried out by varying the rotating speed of the second motor so that the first motor operates at a speed within the desired performance range in the first mode of operation.

105. (Previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein:
the producing step is carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less than 2000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output.

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 104, wherein:
the producing step is carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less than 1000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein:
the producing step is carried out by combining a power of the first motor with a power of the second motor when the output shaft is initially not rotating.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising:
synchronizing rotation of first motor and the output shaft, wherein a power of the first motor is combined serially with the power of the second motor to provide power to the output shaft.

109. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of:
generating electrical energy with the second motor, the second motor being an electrical motor;
storing the electrical energy in a power storage device.

110. (Previously presented) A method of combining the power of a first motor and a second motor, comprising the steps of:
providing an output shaft, a first motor, a second motor, and a planetary gear set having a ring gear, a sun gear and a carrier having at least one planet gear, the first motor, the second motor and the output shaft each being coupled to at least one of the ring gear, sun gear and carrier;

varying the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft by varying the speed of the second motor when in a first mode of operation, wherein the speed of the output shaft increases when the speed of the second motor is increased and the speed of the first motor is constant; and

stopping the second motor to provide a fixed speed ratio between the first motor and the output shaft in a second mode of operation.

111. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the producing step is carried out with the transmission ratio being controlled by the second motor based upon an output torque demand when in the first mode of operation

112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first motor being a heat engine and the second motor is an electric motor.

113. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the first motor being coupled to the sun gear, the second motor being coupled to the carrier and the output shaft being coupled to the ring gear.

114. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with a synchronizer for synchronizing the rotation of the first motor and the output shaft.

115. (Previously presented) The method of claim 114, further comprising the step of:
synchronizing the rotation of the first motor, second motor and output shaft using the synchronizer.

116. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the producing step is carried out in a manner which operates the first motor within a desired performance range by varying the transmission ratio between the first motor and the output shaft in the first mode of operation.

117. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the producing step is carried out by varying the rotating speed of the second motor so that the first motor operates at a speed within the desired performance range in the first mode of operation.

118. (Previously presented) The method of claim 117, wherein:
the producing step is carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less
than 2000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output.

119. (Previously presented) The method of claim 117, wherein:
the producing step is carried out with the desired performance range being a range of less
than 1000 rpm for the first motor while the power output increases 50% of a peak power output.

120. (Previously presented) The method of claim 110, wherein:
the producing step is carried out by combining a power of the first motor with a power of
the second motor when the output shaft is initially not rotating.

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 17, 19-21, 23-26, 30-33, 53-56, 58, 65-66, 96-120 are pending in the present application. Of these claims, 17, 31, 53, 66, 96 and 110 are independent. Claims 1-16, 18, 27-29, 34-52, 59-64 and 67-95 have been canceled. Claims 22 and 57 were withdrawn.

Claims 17, 19-21, 23-26, 30, 32 and 33 were rejected as being indefinite. Claim 17 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 31, 53-58, 65, 66 and 96-120 are allowed.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 17, 19-21, 23-26, 30, 32 and 33 would be allowable if claim 17 were rewritten to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Claim 17 has been amended in the suggested manner thereby placing all claims in condition for allowance.

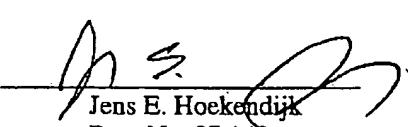
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-412-3322.

Respectfully submitted,

March 17, 2006
Date


Jens E. Hoekendijk

Reg. No. 37,149

Jens E. Hoekendijk
P.O. Box 4787
Burlingame, CA 94011-4787
Tel.: 415-412-3322
Fax: 650-871-7688

Attorney Docket No. 017-0018	Express Mail Label No. NA	Mailing Date March 17, 2006	<i>For PTO Use Only Do Not Mark in This Area</i>
Application No. 10/619,751	Filing Date July 14, 2003	Attorney/Secretary Init JEH:elc	
Title of the Invention METHODS AND DEVICES FOR ALTERING THE TRANSMISSION RATIO OF A DRIVE SYSTEM			
Applicant Luke W. CLAUSON			
Enclosures RCE Transmittal (duplicate) Preliminary Amendment (11 pages) Transmittal letter			



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City: BURLINGAME
State: CA
Zip: 94010
Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DATE	SEQ	POSTING REF	ATTORNEY DOCKET NBR	CODE	AMT	BAL
03/06	83	11237619	003-007-C6	1011	\$300.00	\$4,693.00
03/06	84	11237619	003-007-C6	1051	\$130.00	\$4,563.00
03/06	85	11237619	003-007-C6	1111	\$500.00	\$4,063.00
03/06	86	11237619	003-007-C6	1311	\$200.00	\$3,863.00
03/06	87	11237619	003-007-C6	1252	\$450.00	\$3,413.00
03/07	75	11200990		2254	\$795.00	\$2,618.00
03/07	86	11286254	18558-140-C2	2011	\$150.00	\$2,468.00
03/07	87	11286254	18558-140-C2	2111	\$250.00	\$2,218.00
03/07	88	11286254	18558-140-C2	2311	\$100.00	\$2,118.00
03/07	89	11286254	18558-140-C2	2051	\$65.00	\$2,053.00
03/07	140	E-REPLENISHMENT		9203	-\$5,000.00	\$7,053.00
03/08	432	10570479	017-003	2631	\$150.00	\$6,903.00
03/08	433	10570479	017-003	2633	\$100.00	\$6,803.00
03/08	434	10570479	017-003	2641	\$50.00	\$6,753.00
03/08	435	10570479	017-003	2617	\$65.00	\$6,688.00
03/08	436	10570479	017-003	2615	\$175.00	\$6,513.00
03/08	437	10570479	017-003	2616	\$180.00	\$6,333.00
03/08	438	10570479	017-003	2453	\$750.00	\$5,583.00
03/16	305	10571165	015-002	2631	\$150.00	\$5,433.00
03/16	306	10571165	015-002	2633	\$100.00	\$5,333.00
03/16	307	10571165	015-002	2641	\$50.00	\$5,283.00
03/16	308	10571165	015-002	2617	\$65.00	\$5,218.00
03/16	309	10571165	015-002	2615	\$25.00	\$5,193.00
03/16	310	10571165	015-002	2616	\$180.00	\$5,013.00
03/16	311	10571165	015-002	2453	\$750.00	\$4,263.00
03/17	15	11200990		2254	-\$795.00	\$5,058.00
03/21	13	10619751	017-001	1801	\$790.00	\$4,268.00



P R O C E

JAN

Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/619,751
Filing Date	July 14, 2003
First Named Inventor	Luke W. CLAUSON
Group Art Unit	3681
Examiner Name	Tisha D. Lewis
Attorney Docket Number	017-001

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a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

ii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. Other _____

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-1247

i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) | 03/21/2006 MBIZUNES 00000011 501247 10619751

ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) | 01 FC:1801 790.00 DA

iii. Other Any deficiencies or credits | Adjustment date: 05/17/2006 SDENBOB1
03/21/2006 MBIZUNES 00000011 501247 10619751
01 FC:1801 790.00 CR

b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

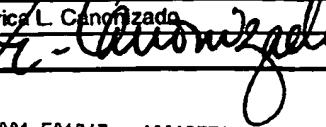
c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Jens E. Hoekendijk	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	37,149
Signature		Date	March 17, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Erica L. Canzonizado	Date	March 17, 2006
Signature			

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01 FC:2801 395.00 DA